

# Counseling Connection

## 9-1-11

**Pause for just a moment and remember all those who lost their lives on 9-11. Say a prayer for peace for our nation!**

Happy September! This newsletter is intended for both **students** and **parents**. Hopefully you all attended the college fair last night and were able to visit with college representatives and ask EducationQuest some questions about scholarships and financial aid! Choosing a college is a big decision, but choosing the right career for you is a bigger decision. Don't panic! Choosing a career and the college that is the best fit for your career choice is not something you do in a day, a week, or even a month. It is a **process**! According to Webster's New Dictionary a process is:

1. Something ***going*** on
2. Natural phenomenon marked by ***gradual*** changes
3. A series of ***actions*** or ***operations*** directed toward a **result**

**Get involved!** Like to make new friends? Of course you do, we all do! Check out act.org. This is a very useful website. It is not only about taking the ACTs. It has a great section on career planning. This site should become your new BFF!

**Be informed!** Like to be told to clean your room? Of course you don't, none of us do! So you're going to let your parents tell you what career to choose and what college to go to! (Hold on parents...I am not advocating that your children start disobeying you!) In the short time I have been at CC, I have heard too many times...my mom wants me to, or my dad thinks I should, or even worse...I hear there is a lot of money when you become a...! OMG! You have to live with your career choice for the rest of your life, or spend the rest of your life switching careers looking for what makes you happy!

**Go on college visits!** Like field trips? Of course you do, we all do! Go visit colleges! **Visit** colleges and universities and community colleges! (See enclosed Brochure) **Check out** College Profiles at EducationQuest.org for information about colleges in Nebraska and nationwide.

**Visit Liberal Arts Colleges** Like to study a variety of courses? You might! You might not! If you are undecided on a career choice, maybe a Liberal Arts College is a good fit for you!

A **liberal arts college** is one with a primary emphasis on undergraduate study in the liberal arts and sciences. It is normally characterized by:

1. smaller size than universities, which usually means more individual attention is given to each student;
2. residential, which means students live and learn away from home, often for the first time, and learn to live well with others. Additionally, the residential experience of living on campus brings a wide variety of cultural, political, and intellectual events to students who might not otherwise seek them out in a non-residential setting;
3. typically a two-year exploration of the liberal arts or general knowledge **before** declaring a major.

Seniors are encouraged to take as many college visits with their parents as they need in order to figure out where they want to go. Juniors are allowed two college visits with their parents.

#### **Myths that need to be shattered:**

1. Community colleges are for dummies! Hogwash! Community colleges offer great programs that do not require a four year degree. If they offer a degree that you can get in two years and that is what you need for your profession, why would you want to pay four years of tuition. Go out and buy yourself and your guidance counselor a new pair of shoes if you have cash to waste!
2. Most of the classes at a community college won't transfer into a four year degree! More Hogwash! Check with the four year school you want to attend...your credits will most likely transfer, if not, don't go!
3. I am too stupid for college! Triple Hogwash! If you struggle in high school you just need to find the right fit for you! Perhaps that is a smaller school with smaller classes and a school that has tutoring programs. Your only limitations are the ones you set for yourself!
4. Private colleges are too expensive! Quadruple Hogwash! Private colleges offer more scholarships than public universities and often times offer larger scholarships. They work with you to get financial aid and work study. Check it out!

**Finally** let me share with you some important information for the upcoming months.

The dates for the Explore Test will be scheduled between 9/19/2011 and 10/7/2011. The EXPLORE<sup>®</sup> program is designed to help eighth and ninth graders explore a broad range of options for their future. It prepares students not only for their high school coursework but for their post-high school choices as well. EXPLORE can serve as an independent program or as the entry point into ACT's College and Career Readiness System. Check out [act.org](http://act.org).

The dates for the PLAN Test will be scheduled between 9/19/2011 and 10/7/2012. Taking PLAN<sup>®</sup> as a 10th grader is a great way to prepare for the ACT—and helps you get ready to succeed in college and beyond! Your PLAN Score Report helps you start by focusing on a few career areas. Check out [act.org](http://act.org).

ACT Test Dates at CC are:

September 10, 2011 (This is the day after homecoming!)  
October 22, 2011      Good idea to take as a practice before John Baylor Test Prep  
December 10, 2011    After John Baylor Test Prep  
April 14, 2012  
June 9, 2012

If these dates don't work for you NECC offers a February test. Check it out [act.org](http://act.org)  
Check out registration deadlines!

### **Business Career Day at UNL**

October 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-11:30

### **Red Letter Days at UNL –Senior Open Houses**

All majors:	Engineering: September 26
October 3 and 28	Architecture: October 12
November 1	Business Administration: October 24
December 2	Education and Human Sciences: October 7
January 13	Journalism and Mass Communication: October 12
February 20	Pre-Health related majors: October 10

### **2011 Northeast Nebraska Career Day, October 18<sup>th</sup> at Wayne State College**

The sophomore class will be traveling via bus to WSC where they will have the opportunity to listen to a keynote speaker and then go to breakout sessions on college life and career choices.

**Counselor Connection is posted on sycamore under the Guidance Counselor section ☺**